

IN THE CLAIMS:

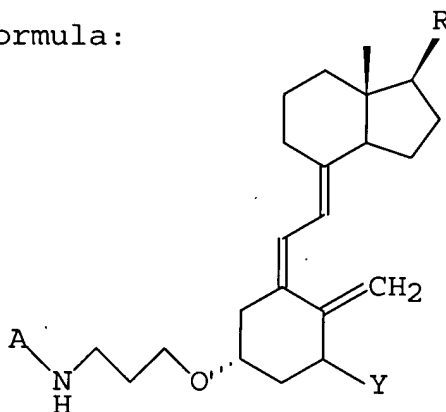
Please cancel claims 21-24 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-13. (canceled).

14. (currently amended) A method of obtaining a vitamin D compound of the formula:



wherein:

R represents a 25-hydroxy side-group of vitamin D<sub>2</sub> or of vitamin D<sub>3</sub>;

Y represents hydrogen or hydroxy;

A represents a functional group, coupled via a spacer group, which can be bound by a protein with high affinity;

~~characterised by the steps comprising;~~

a) ~~cyanoethylation of~~ cyanoethylating the 3-hydroxy group of a vitamin D starting compound in the presence of potassium hydride and tertiary butanol;

- b) ~~addition of~~adding lithium hydride and ~~conversion of~~converting the 25-hydroxy group into the lithium alcoholate and ~~subsequent reduction of~~ subsequently reducing the nitrile group with lithium aluminum hydride; and
- c) linking a spacer group together with a functional group A on the amino propylether side chain.

15. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 14, wherein the functional group A is selected from biotin, digoxigenin, amino acids, characteristic amino acids and peptide sequences, FITC, proteins and peptide groups, protein-A, protein G and vitamin D derivatives.

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Cont'd*  
16. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 14, wherein the functional group A is 25-hydroxy vitamin D or 1 $\alpha$ , 25-dihydroxy vitamin D.

17. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 14, wherein the functional vitamin D group is coupled in the 3 $\beta$ -position via an ether bridge with the spacer group.

18. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 14, wherein step c) is effected with biotinyl-n- $\epsilon$ -amino

caproyl-hydroxy-succinimide ester (LC-BHNS) or an activated biotinylation reagent.

19. (previously presented) Method according to claim 14, wherein the spacer group is an amino carboxylic acid radical, an amino undecanoic acid radical or an amino polyether radical.

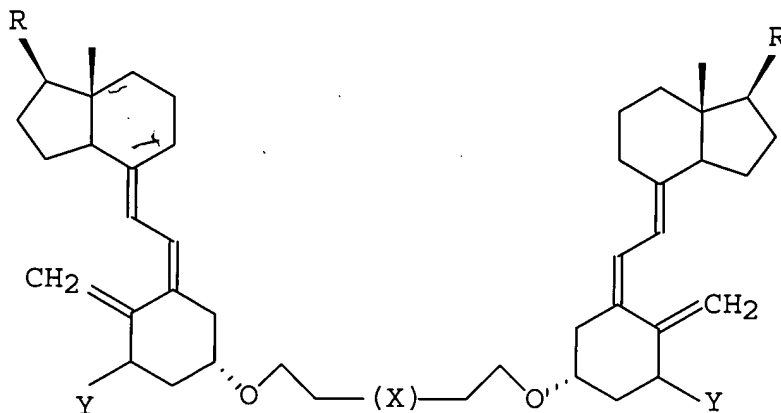
20. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method of producing ~~the a~~ 3-amino propylether-25-hydroxy or 3-amino propylether-1 $\alpha$ ,25-dihydroxy vitamin D intermediate compound, ~~characterised by the method steps a) and b) according to claim 14~~ comprising;

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a) cyanoethylating the 3-hydroxy group of a vitamin D starting compound in the presence of potassium hydride and tertiary butanol;

b) adding lithium hydride and converting the 25-hydroxy group into the lithium alcoholate and subsequently reducing the nitrile group with lithium aluminum hydride.

21-24. (canceled).

25. (currently amended) ~~Vitamin D compound~~ A vitamin D compound of the formula:



wherein;

R represents a 25-OH side group of vitamin D, or

Y represents hydrogen or hydroxyl and

X represents a substituted or non-substituted hydrocarbon group of 0.8 to 4.2 nm length, which optionally contains the heteroatoms S, O, N, and P.

26. (currently amended) ~~Vitamin~~ The vitamin D compound according to claim 25, obtained by a process comprising

a) ~~cyanoethylation of~~ cyanoethylating the 3-hydroxy group of a vitamin D starting compound in the presence of potassium hydride and tertiary butanol;

b) ~~addition of~~ adding lithium hydride and ~~conversion of~~ converting the 25-hydroxy group into the lithium alcoholate and ~~subsequent~~

~~reduction of~~subsequently reducing the nitrile group with lithium aluminum hydride; and

c) linking a spacer group together with a functional group A on the amino propylether side chain

*David  
Cont'd*  
wherein in step c) two vitamin D aminopropyl compounds are coupled by ~~means of condensation~~condensing with a dicarboxylic acid.

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